Payment under Food for Work Programme to Rajasthan

†4559. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that payment of Rs. 23.42 crore under the programme of Food for Work have remained unpaid to the labourers, as a result of deduction in allocation of wheat from 87,322 metric tonnes to 26,197 metric tonnes to Rajasthan Government in the year 2005-06;

(b) the reasons for not releasing this amount so far; and

(c) by when this amount would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) There has been no such reference from the State Government of Rajasthan to this Ministry. The State was authorized 43661 metric tonnes of foodgrains against the revised allocation of 26197 MTs. Under NFFWP States were to make payment of wages through a mix of foodgrains and cash. Any shortfall in foodgrains in payment of wages was to be made good from cash component.

Low coverage of rural sanitation

4560. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coverage of rural sanitation in the country is very low;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Millennium Development Goal of the United Nations envisages having the number of people not having access to potable water or sanitation by 2015;

(d) if so, whether mere provision of funds is unlikely to solve the problem, unless it is supported by a vigorous information, education, communication campaign;

(e) if so, how far the centrally sponsored total sanitation campaign is helpful to increase the rural sanitation to fulfil the UN goal; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.